

**Probation Committee
Judicial Conference of Indiana**

**Minutes
August 12, 2009**

The Probation Committee of the Judicial Conference of Indiana met by conference call on August 12, 2009.

1. **Members present.** The following members of the Probation Committee were present: Julie Cantrell, David Chidester, Thomas Felts, Becky McClure, Robert Mrzlack, Steve Nation, Mark Smith, and Mark Stoner, chair.
2. **Staff present.** Jane Seigel, Jenny Bauer and Bob Champion provided staff assistance.
3. **Approval of Minutes.** The June 2009 meeting minutes were approved.
4. **Legislative Discussion.** Judge Stoner reported on the work of the Probation Summer Study Group. He said the group has met twice and is doing research on funding, salaries and retention. Judge Stoner said the Commission on Courts has not announced its meeting schedule. The group is preparing information to present to the Commission and plans to have representatives testify and answer questions about the probation system. The Committee discussed the issue of offender recidivism and whether it should be used as a gauge of a probation department's effectiveness. The Committee also discussed the idea of requiring probation departments to conduct recidivism studies and whether a uniform definition of "recidivism" could be used state-wide. The Committee decided to table the recidivism discussion for future meetings and requested that the Summer Study Committee focus on cost savings provided by probation.
5. **Next meeting.** The next meeting is scheduled for September 30, 2009 at noon by conference call.

Respectfully submitted,

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